

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Lisa S. Disbrow, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of the Air Force.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nomination.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I know of no further debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

If not, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Disbrow nomination?

The nomination was confirmed.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to the nomination; that any statements related to the nomination be printed in the RECORD; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action and the Senate then resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume legislative session.

### RURAL COMMUNITY HOSPITAL DEMONSTRATION EXTENSION ACT OF 2015

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 181, S. 607.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 607) to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for a five-year extension of the rural community hospital demonstration program, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Finance, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

*This Act may be cited as the "Rural Community Hospital Demonstration Extension Act of 2015".*

#### SEC. 2. FIVE-YEAR EXTENSION OF THE MEDICARE RURAL COMMUNITY HOSPITAL DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM.

(a) EXTENSION.—Section 410A of the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003 (Public Law 108-173; 42 U.S.C. 1395ww note), as amended by sections 3123 and 10313 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Public Law 111-148), is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(5), by striking "5-year extension period" and inserting "10-year extension period"; and

(2) in subsection (g)—

(A) in the subsection heading, by striking "FIVE-YEAR" and inserting "TEN-YEAR";

(B) in paragraph (1), by striking "additional 5-year" and inserting "additional 10-year";

(C) by striking "5-year extension period" and inserting "10-year extension period" each place it appears;

(D) in paragraph (3), by adding at the end the following new sentence: "Notwithstanding the preceding sentence, after the date of the enactment of this sentence, only hospitals described in paragraph (4) or (5) may participate in demonstration program under this section."

(E) in paragraph (4)(B)—

(i) in the matter preceding clause (i), by inserting "each 5-year period in" after "hospital during"; and

(ii) in clause (i), by inserting "each applicable 5-year period in" after "the first day of"; and

(F) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(5) OTHER HOSPITALS IN DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM.—During the second 5 years of the 10-year extension period, the Secretary shall apply the provisions of paragraph (4) to rural community hospitals that are not described in paragraph (4) but are participating in the demonstration program under this section as of December 30, 2014, in a similar manner as such provisions apply to rural community hospitals described in paragraph (4)."

(b) CHANGE IN TIMING FOR REPORT.—Subsection (e) of such section 410A is amended by striking "Not later than 6 months after the completion" and inserting "Not later than August 1, 2018".

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Grassley amendment at the desk be agreed to; that the committee-reported amendment, as amended, be agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed; that the title amendment be agreed to; and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 2952) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To improve the bill)

Strike section 2 and insert the following:

#### SEC. 2. FIVE-YEAR EXTENSION OF THE RURAL COMMUNITY HOSPITAL DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM.

(a) EXTENSION.—Section 410A of the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003 (Public Law 108-173; 42 U.S.C. 1395ww note), as amended by sections 3123 and 10313 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Public Law 111-148), is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(5), by striking "5-year extension period" and inserting "10-year extension period"; and

(2) in subsection (g)—

(A) in the subsection heading, by striking "FIVE-YEAR" and inserting "TEN-YEAR";

(B) in paragraph (1), by striking "additional 5-year" and inserting "additional 10-year";

(C) by striking "5-year extension period" and inserting "10-year extension period" each place it appears;

(D) in paragraph (4)(B)—

(i) in the matter preceding clause (i), by inserting "each 5-year period in" after "hospital during"; and

(ii) in clause (i), by inserting "each applicable 5-year period in" after "the first day of"; and

(E) by adding at the end the following new paragraphs:

"(5) OTHER HOSPITALS IN DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM.—During the second 5 years of the 10-year extension period, the Secretary shall apply the provisions of paragraph (4) to rural community hospitals that are not described in paragraph (4) but are participating in the demonstration program under this section as of December 30, 2014, in a similar manner as such provisions apply to rural community hospitals described in paragraph (4).

"(6) EXPANSION OF DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM TO RURAL AREAS IN ANY STATE.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall, notwithstanding subsection (a)(2) or paragraph (2) of this subsection, not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this paragraph, issue a solicitation for applications to select up to the maximum number of additional rural community hospitals located in any State to participate in the demonstration program under this section for the second 5 years of the 10-year extension period without exceeding the limitation under paragraph (3) of this subsection.

"(B) PRIORITY.—In determining which rural community hospitals that submitted an application pursuant to the solicitation under subparagraph (A) to select for participation in the demonstration program, the Secretary—

"(i) shall give priority to rural community hospitals located in one of the 20 States with the lowest population densities (as determined by the Secretary using the 2015 Statistical Abstract of the United States); and

"(ii) may consider—

"(I) closures of hospitals located in rural areas in the State in which the rural community hospital is located during the 5-year period immediately preceding the date of the enactment of this paragraph; and

"(II) the population density of the State in which the rural community hospital is located."

(b) CHANGE IN TIMING FOR REPORT.—Subsection (e) of such section 410A is amended—

(1) by striking "Not later than 6 months after the completion of the demonstration program under this section" and inserting "Not later than August 1, 2018"; and

(2) by striking "such program" and inserting "the demonstration program under this section".

The committee-reported amendment in the nature of a substitute, as amended, was agreed to.

The bill (S. 607), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 607

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

*This Act may be cited as the "Rural Community Hospital Demonstration Extension Act of 2015".*

#### SEC. 2. FIVE-YEAR EXTENSION OF THE RURAL COMMUNITY HOSPITAL DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM.

(a) EXTENSION.—Section 410A of the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003 (Public Law 108-173; 42 U.S.C. 1395ww note), as amended by sections 3123 and 10313 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Public Law 111-148), is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(5), by striking "5-year extension period" and inserting "10-year extension period"; and

(2) in subsection (g)—

(A) in the subsection heading, by striking "FIVE-YEAR" and inserting "TEN-YEAR";

(B) in paragraph (1), by striking "additional 5-year" and inserting "additional 10-year";

(C) by striking "5-year extension period" and inserting "10-year extension period" each place it appears;

(D) in paragraph (4)(B)—

(i) in the matter preceding clause (i), by inserting "each 5-year period in" after "hospital during"; and

(ii) in clause (i), by inserting "each applicable 5-year period in" after "the first day of"; and